

the alien's birth under section 203(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1153(a)).

FOR THE RELIEF OF ILKO VASILEV IVANOV, ANELIA MARINOVA PENEVA, MARINA ILKOVA IVANOVA, AND JULIE ILKOVA IVANOVA

The bill (S. 541) for the relief of Ilko Vasilev Ivanov, Anelia Marinova Peneva, Marina Ilkova Ivanova, and Julie Ilkova Ivanova, was considered, ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 541

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. PERMANENT RESIDENCE.

In the administration of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101 et seq.), Ilko Vasilev Ivanov, Anelia Marinova Peneva, Marina Ilkova Ivanova, and Julia Ilkova Ivanova shall be held and considered to have been lawfully admitted to the United States for permanent residence as of the date of the enactment of this Act upon payment of the required visa fees.

SEC. 2. REDUCTION OF NUMBER OF AVAILABLE VISAS.

Upon the granting of permanent residence to Ilko Vasilev Ivanov, Anelia Marinova Peneva, Marina Ilkova Ivanova, and Julia Ilkova Ivanova as provided in this Act, the Secretary of State shall instruct the proper officer to reduce by the appropriate number during the current fiscal year the total number of immigrant visas available to natives of the country of the aliens' birth under subsection (a) of section 203 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1153).

THANKING STAFF OF LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 277 introduced earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 277) tendering the sincere thanks of the Senate to the staffs of the Offices of the Legislative Counsel of the Senate and the House of Representatives for their dedication and service to the legislative process.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and any statements relating to the resolution be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 277) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 277

Whereas the Offices of the Legislative Counsel of the Senate and the House of Rep-

resentatives have demonstrated great expertise, dedication, professionalism, and integrity in faithfully discharging the duties and responsibilities of their positions;

Whereas legislative drafting is a lengthy, arduous, and demanding process requiring a keen intellect, thorough knowledge, stern constitution, and remarkable patience;

Whereas the staff of the Senate and House Offices of the Legislative Counsel, in particular, Ruth Ann Ernst, John Goetcheus, Peter Goodloe, Edward G. Grossman, Pierre Poisson, and James G. Scott, have performed above and beyond the call of duty in drafting the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2003; and

Whereas the Senate and House Offices of the Legislative Counsel have met the legislative drafting needs of the Senate and the House of Representatives with unfailing professionalism, exceptional skill, undying dedication, and, above all, patience and good humor as the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2003 passed through the legislative process: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the sincere thanks of the Senate are hereby tendered to the staff of both the Office of the Legislative Counsel of the Senate and the Office of the Legislative Counsel of the House of Representatives for their outstanding work and dedication to the United States Congress and the people of the United States of America.

BAN ON UNDETECTABLE FIREARMS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 3348 which is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 3348) to reauthorize the ban on undetectable firearms.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, it is gratifying that Congress is finally acting to renew one of the Nation's essential protections against terrorism.

The Undetectable Firearms Act—also known as the “plastic gun” law—makes it illegal to manufacture, import, possess, or transfer a firearm that is not detectable by walk-through metal detectors or airport x-ray machines. Only firearms necessary for certain military and intelligence uses are exempt.

This law was first enacted in 1988, long before the attacks on 9/11, and it is more important than ever now. It has been extended once since it was first enacted, but it is scheduled to expire on December 10th. Its expiration would result in Americans in all parts of the Nation becoming needlessly vulnerable to gun violence in airlines, airports, schools, office buildings, and many other places, and even to terrorist attacks.

The technology of gun manufacturers has significantly improved since the 1980's—and the determination of terrorists to attack Americans has soared. We know that terrorists are exploiting the weaknesses and loopholes in our

gun laws. In 2000, a member of the Middle East terrorist group Hezbollah was convicted in Detroit on gun charges and conspiracy to ship guns and ammunition to Lebanon. He had purchased many of those weapons at gun shows in Michigan. In the war in Afghanistan, American soldiers discovered a terrorist training manual entitled “How Can I Train Myself for Jihad” in a house in that country. One part of the manual stated: “In other countries, e.g. some states of USA . . . it is perfectly legal for members of the public to own certain types of firearms. If you live in such a country, obtain an assault rifle legally . . . learn how to use it properly and go and practice in the areas allowed for such training.”

Last month, I introduced a bill, S. 1774, to renew the Undetectable Firearms Act and repeal the sunset provision. The bill now before us, H.R. 3348, extends the sunset provision for another 10 years. The danger to security from undetectable firearms won't sunset, and the law that bans them shouldn't sunset either. Nevertheless, I am encouraged that Congress is taking action, and I look forward to the renewal of this gun ban being signed into law.

This measure is only one of several steps that Congress should take to protect our citizens from gun violence. We also need to strengthen criminal background checks for gun purchases under the Brady Law, renew the assault weapons ban, and close the “gun show loophole” once and for all. Each of these gun-safety measures is needed to protect our people in communities across the country. I urge my colleagues to support the pending bill, and to act on these other vital measures as well.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read the third time, passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and that any statements relating to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 3348) was read the third time and passed.

BANKRUPTCY EXTENSION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. 1920 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1920) to extend for 6 months the period for which chapter 12 of title 11 of the United States Code is reenacted.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.